



The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 31 December 1966



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DAILY BRIEF
31 DECEMBER 1966

1. North Vietnam

The people have been given an unusually bleak assessment of what the new year will bring them. Hanoi radio broadcast a year-end speech by party first secretary Le Duan in which he warned that the US would step up the war effort in 1967 and that the people must therefore brace themselves for even greater hardships and sacrifices.

Le Duan went on, as usual, to assert the inevitability of an ultimate US defeat. "Even atomic bombs," he said, cannot prevent this.

2. Vietnam

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3. Nigeria

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4. Yugoslavia

The release today of Milovan Djilas, after about five years of an eight-year sentence, will probably be represented by the regime as an example of the "personal freedom" stemming from the recent liberalizing trend.

Once Tito's heir apparent, Djilas has for some time been considered a dead issue, and the regime has been under no pressure to release him.

The present unsettled internal situation in Yugoslavia, however, offers a fertile field for someone of Djilas' background and reputation to cause trouble. The regime will probably watch him carefully--and keep his cell door open and the bed turned down.

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5. Soviet Union

We have further evidence of Moscow's concern over the military implications of its dispute with China.

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We doubt that Moscow sees any acute military threat, although incidents along the border continue. But Moscow does appear determined to respond vigorously to any Chinese provocation.

As for the Chinese, there is plenty of evidence that they are watching the Russians' every move, and may even be convinced that the Soviets will eventually attack China.

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